



Description of the Participant School in Italy - SI

ISTITUTO COMPRENSIVO “MOHANDAS GANDHI”

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Size and structure of the school: "M. Gandhi" Institute includes three schools of different levels:

- Infant School (3 school years) with 15 teachers, 159 pupils, 6 classes (of heterogeneous aged pupils);
- Primary School (5 years school) with 36 teachers, 339 pupils, 15 classes (2 for the first year, 4 for the third year, 3 for each of the other years);
- Lower Secondary School (3 years school) with 42 teachers, 311 pupils, 14 classes (5 for the first and third year, 4 for the second). The lower secondary school, where we play our work, is entitled to "Paolo Uccello."

Geographical context of the school: The school is located in a neighborhood on the northwest suburbs of Florence, which extends along a road parallel to the river Arno covering an area of approximately 16 km². It consists of a recent extension of the medieval village of Brozzi, largely realized through popular buildings of poor aesthetic taste in a rather narrow territory.

History of the School: The school was built in the early '60s. It is a prefabricated two floor building, surrounded by a large garden and provided with two sports fields.

Socio-economic environment: The district is inhabited by about 12,000 people with average income among the lowest in the city, unemployment and school dropouts among the highest. There are many migrants families, particularly from China. In the '80s and '90s, it registered serious phenomena of crime and social emergency. Today, the quality of life has greatly improved thanks to the creation of social and assistance services, the establishment of socio-cultural activities, and the construction of a large shopping center.

Description of what is done in the school of multicultural work and how migrant pupils are taken care of: " Paolo Uccello " school has about 34% of migrant student, nearly 60 % of which have Chinese citizenship ; while the percentage of migrant students in the whole Institute exceeds the 42% . Known as " The school where many languages are spoken ", it represents a positive model of intercultural education. The school promotes several good

initiatives

The school houses inside the "Gandhi Centre"- a center of early literacy for foreign students established by the City of Florence - and a Chinese school ; moreover it implements various projects for Italian language learning as L2 .

To manage the diversity and achieve a good respectful climate within both the class groups both the whole school, educational actions are triggered on three lines of development :

- *life skills line*: it concerns plans for the development of socio- emotional skills to improve cohesion within the school and the outside-school communities according with the WHO (World Health Organization) guidelines ;

- *interculture line*: it promotes linguistic-cultural mediation and knowledge of other cultures in the various teaching subjects, even by the realization and the use of a special teaching tool, the " intercultural window ";

- *disciplinary basic lexicon line*: it deals with the research on the essential elements (concepts, procedures, ...) in a specific field of disciplinary knowledge in terms of lexicon; Moreover, four laboratories are active: for science, art (ceramics, painting, theatre), vegetable garden, journalism (documentation and construction of multimedia products) involving the participation of small groups from the same class or from different classes and with the presence of pupils at risk of dropout.

To provide for the lack of family care in support of the school , the School organizes programs in collaboration with local associations (recreational, sports , music ...) .

The teachers are responsive , committed and collaborative .

The class where we work is a first class, with 22 students of whom 6 migrants. The teacher is experienced and makes large use of interactive and group work method . The textbook is a traditional one, in adoption for several years and common to all classes in order to let students using the books of the previous year classmates without having to buy new ones.

Any kind of special information about the teaching of mathematics in the school: Mathematics teaching is done by usual topics following the general educational work guidelines , with the spirit of cooperation and sharing of materials, set by the School Board.